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# Report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-eighth executive session*

**Geneva, 25 November 2009**

* The present document is an advance version of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its forty-eighth executive session, held at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 25 November 2009. It will appear in final form, together with the reports of the forty-ninth executive session, the fiftieth executive session and the fifty-seventh session of the Board, as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 15* (A/65/15).

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# I. Opening of the session

1. The session was opened by Mr. Jean Feyder (Luxembourg), President of the Trade and Development Board.

2. The following speakers made opening statements: the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; the representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Asian Group; the representative of Côte d'Ivoire on behalf of the African Group; the representative of China; and the representative of the United States of America.

# II. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

(Agenda item 1)

3. At its plenary meeting, the Board adopted the provisional agenda contained in document TD/B/EX(48)/1. Accordingly, the agenda for the executive session was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
2. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its fifty-fourth session
3. Progress report on enhancing the functioning of the Working Party
4. Other business
5. Report of the Board on its forty-eighth executive session

# III. Chair's summary

## A. Report of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget on its fifty-fourth session

(Agenda item 2)

4. The Chair of the Working Party on the Strategic Framework and the Programme Budget, Mr. Hamid Baeidi Nejad (Islamic Republic of Iran), reported to the Board on the fifty-fourth session of the Working Party, which took place 18-20 November 2009, in Geneva. He noted that there was one substantive item on the Working Party's agenda, the review of the proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2012-2013. He informed the Board that the Working Party was tasked with reviewing the plan prior to its submission to the United Nations Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, and its subsequent review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination.

5. The Chair of the Working Party reported that there had been a high degree of dialogue, understanding and flexibility among the delegates, and that the overwhelming majority of the text had been agreed. Unfortunately, there was one subparagraph on which the delegates could not agree. Thus, the Working Party was unable to adopt its draft agreed conclusions concurring with the UNCTAD Biennial

Programme Plan and recommending that the Trade and Development Board transmit its decision on the report of the Working Party to the UNCTAD Secretary-General.

6. The President of the Trade and Development Board urged delegates to reach agreement on the paragraph and, after some consultations, it was possible to arrive at a consensus. Delegates reached compromise language on the disputed subparagraph, and the Board approved the draft proposed UNCTAD Biennial Programme Plan for the period 2012-2013, as contained in document TD/B/EX(48)/L.1.

7. The Board also took note of the report of the fifty-fourth session of the Working Party, including the draft agenda for its fifty-fifth session, as contained in document TD/B/WP/217.

### B. Progress report on enhancing the functioning of the Working Party
(Agenda item 3)

8. The Chair of the Informal Consultations of the Trade and Development Board on Enhancing the Functioning of the Working Party, Mr. Elmer Schialer (Peru), reported to the Board on the work of the informal consultations.

9. He recalled that the fifty-second (resumed) session of the Working Party, in its agreed conclusions, had recommended that the Board "undertake a process to strengthen the Working Party with a view to contribute more efficiently to the formulation of the UNCTAD sections of the Strategic Framework and Programme Budget, within the broader budgetary process of the United Nations". He further recalled that the Trade and Development Board, at its fifty-sixth session, had requested the President of the Board to "organize informal consultations on the issue and to report to the extended bureau of the Board with a view to reaching agreement on how to enhance the functioning of the Working Party".

10. The Chair of the informal consultations said that Board members had unanimously informally approved the calendar of sessions of the Working Party for the biennium 2010-2011 (see annex II). He also reported that considerable progress had been made on the draft terms of reference of the Working Party, and that the majority of the text had been agreed informally. Finally, he said that participants in the informal consultations had been unanimous in requesting the Board, through the President, to continue those consultations in 2010, in order to, inter alia, agree on the terms of reference for the Working Party.

11. The Board agreed to adopt the calendar of sessions of the Working Party for the biennium 2010-2011, as contained in annex II of the present report.

12. The Board also agreed that informal consultations would continue in 2010.

## IV. Other business
(Agenda item 4)

13. The President of the Trade and Development Board noted that Group B still had two posts remaining to be filled on the Advisory Body. He also noted that Group B still had to designate four countries for the Working Party, and asked the

Group to furnish the information at the latest by 17 December, the date of the next Consultations of the President.

14. The President announced that, at the next Consultations of the President, to be held 17 December 2009, he intended to address three items:

(a) A report from the secretariat on the Seventh International Debt Management Conference, held 9-11 November, in Geneva;

(b) A report from the secretariat on the second session of the Multi-year Expert Meeting on International Cooperation: South-South Cooperation and Regional Integration, to be held 14-16 December, in Geneva;

(c) A short document prepared by the secretariat to provide a "roadmap" on the future of UNCTAD's work.

15. The Board authorized the Consultations of the President to approve new candidates for the Advisory Board and for the Working Party.

## V. Report of the Board on its forty-eighth executive session
(Agenda item 5)

16. The Trade and Development Board authorized the Rapporteur to finalize the report of its forty-eighth executive session.

# Annex I

## Attendance[a]

1. Representatives of the following States members of the Trade and Development Board attended the session:

Albania
Algeria
Angola
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Canada
China
Colombia
Côte d'Ivoire
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Djibouti
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Germany
Greece
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Luxembourg
Malaysia
Mexico
Morocco
Myanmar
Peru
Philippines
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Singapore
South Africa
Sweden
Thailand
Turkey
Ukraine
United States of America
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

2. The following observer attended the session:

Palestine

3. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session:

European Community
International Jute Study Group
South Centre

4. The following non-governmental organization was represented at the session:

*General category*
Village Suisse ONG

[a] For the list of participants, see TD/B/EX(48)/Inf.1.

# Annex II

## Calendar of Working Party sessions for the biennium 2010-2011[a]

| | *Function* | *Scope of work*<br><br>*Agreed conclusions or recommendations will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board for consideration.* |
|---|---|---|
| November 2009 (3 days) | Programmatic | Review the UNCTAD section of the draft biennial programme plan for the biennium 2012-2013. |
| January/February 2010 (2 days) | Publications policy and communications strategy | Informally discuss the specific list of publications planned for 2010;<br><br>Consider a report from the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the implementation of the publications policy and the communications strategy;<br><br>Review the results of the survey of publications issued during the previous year. |
| September 2010 (3 days) | Technical cooperation | Serve as a forum for member States on issues regarding technical cooperation, including matters related to the effectiveness of UNCTAD technical assistance and improved sustainability and predictability of extrabudgetary resources. |
| | Evaluation | Consider the annual in-depth external evaluation of an UNCTAD programme and provide substantive guidance to the direction of the programme based on the evaluation report. |
| November 2010 (3 days) | Programmatic | Consider UNCTAD's biennial programme performance report for the biennium 2008-2009;<br><br>Review the programme narrative component of the draft proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013. |
| | Publications policy | Review the draft list of publications as part of the review of the work programme for the biennium 2012-2013. |

| | *Function* | *Scope of work*<br><br>*Agreed conclusions or recommendations will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board for consideration* |
|---|---|---|
| January/February 2011 (2 days) | Publications policy and communications strategy | Informally discuss the specific list of publications planned for 2011;<br><br>Consider a report from the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on the implementation of the publications policy and the communications strategy;<br><br>Review the results of the survey of publications issued during the previous year. |
| September 2011 (3 days) | Technical cooperation | Serve as a forum for member States on issues regarding technical cooperation, including matters related to the financial structure, improved sustainability and predictability of such resources, and the effectiveness of UNCTAD technical assistance. |
| | Evaluation | Consider the annual in-depth external evaluation of an UNCTAD programme and provides substantive guidance to the direction of the programmes based on the evaluation report. |
| Other issues | Undertake other relevant work as determined by the Trade and Development Board, including following up on the implementation of communications, publications and technical cooperation policies/strategies. | |

[a] Including informal consultations of the Trade and Development Board as necessary.